PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No: 10256.95

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	Paul Raymond Gregson et al.	)
Serial No.:	09/869,754	) Art Unit 1754
Confirmation No.:	8554	)
Filed:	September 13, 2001	)
For:	IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO PROCESSING MATERIALS	)

TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement, which includes the following statements, if any, required variously by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

X Statement of relevance of selected cited references not in the English language which are not translated.

___ Statement that selected cited references are substantially cumulative of an enclosed or previously submitted reference.

___ Statement that selected cited references were previously cited by or submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

A. Additional Materials Required Due to Content of Information Disclosure Statement

Transmitted are the following documents in addition to the Information Disclosure Statement as required variously under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

X Form PTO-1449 listing 27 references submitted for consideration.

X Copies of each of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449.

___ English translations of ____ (____) of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449 which are not in the English language.

___ Copies of the following documents from the prosecution of a previous, related application:

___ Form PTO-1449 AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT; and

___ Form PTO-892

B. Additional Materials Required Due to Timing of Filing of Information Disclosure Statement

The transmitted Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within one (1) of the following four (4) time periods:

I. X Prior to the later of either three (3) months following the filing date or the mailing of a first Office Action. Accordingly, no materials other than those listed above are enclosed.

II. ___ Following the latter of either three (3) months following the filing date or the mailing of a first Office Action, but before the mailing of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, to secure consideration thereof, one (1) of the following is also enclosed:

___ Promptness Certification; or

___ Check No. _____ in the amount of $180.00 constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

III. ___ After the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Accordingly, in order to secure consideration thereof, each of the following are also enclosed:

___ Promptness Certificate;

___ Petition for Consideration; and

___ Check No. in the amount of $_____ constituting the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

IV. ___ After payment of the Issue Fee. Accordingly, in order to secure consideration thereof, each of the following are also enclosed:

___ Petition to Withdraw from Issue; and

___ Check No. _____ in the amount of $_____ constituting the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

C. Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of or any deficiency in the following fees associated with this communication, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

_X_ Any fee required in relation to filing of this letter or any documents transmitted therewith.

___ The submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) in the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that any Promptness Certificate submitted meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

___ The submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

___ The petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

Dated this 4th day of January 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA L. TANGREN
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,246

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Enclosures
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CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that the following documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the 4th day of January 2002.

- Transmittal for Information Disclosure Statement (3 pages)
- Information Disclosure Statement (3 pages)
- Form PTO-1449 listing 27 references (2 pages)
- Copies of each listed reference
- Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

DANA L. TANGREN
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#6

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed listed references are disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

Statement of Relevance of References Listed
Unaccompanied by English Translation
Under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3)

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), the following concise explanation of the relevance of each listed reference that is not in the English language and unaccompanied by a translation into English is provided.

EPO Application No. 0 180 094 A1 discloses a gas mixture consisting of isotope compounds, especially 235 UF6 and 238 UF6, operates by selective laser beam excitation to produce a chemical reaction in the one isotope compound and subsequent adiabatic expansion of the gas mixture via a nozzle in an evacuated irradiation zone, where it cools to below 100 K and the mol. Compounds comprising the desired isotope ppte. as solid particles on the surfaces downstream of the irradiation zone. The pptn. Surfaces are formed as follows. The product stream flows through a grating pattern or honeycomb field of electrostatic electrodes, with a peak electrode at the center of each surrounding annular electrode; this generates an inhomogeneous electrical partial field having its field gradient transverse to the gas flow direction. This induces formation of molecule dipoles in the gas stream. Which are then accelerated along the field gradient and ppte. in solid form on the peak electrodes. For isotope sepn. to produce enriched uranium via the uranium hexafluoride route. Ionization of the product stream is no longer necessary, therefore high laser energies are not required. It is only necessary to bring the product stream into a fine particulate form contg. aerosols and solid particles of the isotope to be sepd. Highly effective sepn. is achieved. Even if the polarity is reversed, the particles still ppte. on the peak electrode, not the ring electrode.

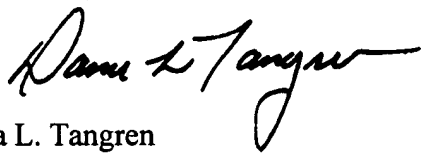
French Application No. 2 363 364 discloses two isotopes of a substance that are separated using a plasma containing very dissimilar ratios of the isotope ions. The plasma is subjected to a constant, homogeneous magnetic field at 90 degrees to a h.f. electric field with a frequency equal to the cyclotron frequency, in the plasma, of the rarer ions. The plasma also contains ions of a third type complying with the formula n3/n2 - m3/m2 f12-f32/f22-f12 where m is the mass of the ions; n their number/unit volume or concn.; f is the angular cyclotron frequency. Ions are collected on two electrodes, whereas ions travel to a separate collector. Concn. N2 pref. equals n3, and the pref. substances are U235; U238 and Th232. In the pref. appts. the two electrodes or two flat plates forming a chamber with a single source at one end providing all three ions; the plasma is formed between the plates; and the collector is situated at the other end of the chamber. Convention methods of sepn., e.g., of U235 from U238 using the magnetic- and electric-field are very difficult to operate. The invention adds a third ion so the process becomes less critical; the Th(3) can be subsequently recovered, e.g., by chemical means, and re-used.

German Application No. DE 3438502 A1 discloses a stream of gaseous UF6 centrally entering a vacuum chamber that is divided into radial streams whose pressure is adiabatically reduced by restricted nozzles followed by laser discharge zones before entering vacuum chambers. Radially outwards from the laser zones is a ring of thin metal support plates continuously or intermittently rotated. Products formed by photodissociation etc., are disposited on these surfaces.

Rotation takes coated plates into a second vacuum chamber with an inlet for fluorinating agent and a suction outlet for material converted to UF6. A third vacuum chamber in the same sector has an inlet and an outlet for a flashing gas to clean the plate surfaces before rotation takes them into the deposition zone in the next working sector. Reduces losses downstream from irradiated gases, caused by lower fluorides, which would affect yield.

Dated this 4th day of January 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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